

Amendment to the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A fusion protein comprising (a) a first ~~domain to which a ligand binds that comprises polypeptide~~ and (b) a second polypeptide, wherein said first polypeptide comprises a ligand binding domain of a steroid hormone receptor that, upon ligand binding, self-associates, and wherein said second polypeptide comprises a cytokine receptor or a proliferation-inducing part thereof that, upon said self-association of said first polypeptide, imparts proliferation activity to a cell ~~a steroid hormone receptor, (b) a second domain that (i) comprises a steroid hormone receptor and (ii) associates when a ligand binds to the first domain, and (c) a third domain comprising a cytokine receptor or a part thereof that imparts proliferation activity to a cell upon the association of the second domain.~~
2. (currently amended) The fusion protein of claim 1, wherein the ~~third~~second domain polypeptide is derived from a G-CSF receptor.
3. (previously presented) The fusion protein of claim 1, wherein the steroid hormone receptor is an estrogen receptor, androgen receptor, progesterone receptor, glucocorticoid receptor or mineral corticoid receptor.
4. (previously presented) The fusion protein of claim 2, wherein the steroid hormone receptor is an estrogen receptor.
5. (withdrawn) A vector comprising a gene encoding the fusion protein of Claim 1.

6. (withdrawn) A cell carrying the vector of Claim 5.
7. (withdrawn) A method for selectively Proliferating the cell of Claim 6, which comprises exposing the cell of Claim 6 to a ligand capable of acting on the "ligand-binding domain" of the fusion protein of Claim 1.
8. (withdrawn) A vector comprising a desired exogenous gene and a gene encoding a fusion protein comprising (a) a ligand-binding domain, (b) a domain that associates when a ligand binds to the domain of (a), and (c) a domain that imparts proliferation activity to a cell upon the association.
9. (withdrawn) The vector of Claim 8, wherein the "domain that imparts proliferation activity to a cell upon the association" is derived from a cytokine receptor.
10. (withdrawn) The vector of Claim 9, wherein the cytokine receptor is a G-CSF receptor.
11. (withdrawn) The vector of Claim 8, wherein the "ligand-binding domain" is derived from a steroid hormone receptor.

12. (withdrawn) The vector of Claim 11, wherein the steroid hormone receptor is an estrogen receptor.
13. (withdrawn) The vector of Claim 8, wherein the "gene encoding a fusion protein" and the "exogenous gene" are located on the same molecule.
14. (withdrawn) The vector of Claim 8, wherein the "gene encoding a fusion protein" and the "exogenous gene" are located on separate molecules.
15. (withdrawn) A cell carrying the vector according to any one of claims 8 to 14.
16. (withdrawn) A method for selectively Proliferating the cell of Claim 15, which comprises exposing the cell of Claim 15 to a ligand capable of acting on the "ligand-binding domain" of the fusion protein encoded by the gene contained in the vector of Claim 8.
17. (withdrawn) A kit comprising (a) the vector of Claim 5 or Claim 8, and (b) a ligand capable of acting on the "ligand-binding domain" of the fusion protein encoded by the gene contained in the vector.

18. (currently amended) The fusion protein of ~~claim 4~~ claim 1, wherein the ~~third~~-second ~~domain~~ polypeptide comprises the entire G-CSF receptor.
19. (currently amended) The fusion protein of ~~claim 4~~ claim 1, wherein the ~~third~~-second ~~domain~~ polypeptide comprises a mutant G-CSF receptor that lacks reactivity against G-CSF.
20. (previously presented) The fusion protein of claim 19, wherein the mutant G-CSF receptor lacks the extracellular domain of wild-type G-CSF.
21. (previously presented) The fusion protein of claim 19, wherein the mutant G-CSF receptor is deficient in amino acid residue 5 (Glu) through 195 (Leu) of wild-type G-CSF.
22. (currently amended) The fusion protein of ~~claim 4~~ claim 1, wherein the ~~third~~-second ~~domain~~ polypeptide comprises a mutant G-CSF receptor that lacks reactivity against G-CSF and the ability to induce differentiation.
23. (previously presented) The fusion protein of claim 22, wherein the mutant G-CSF receptor lacks both the extracellular domain and the differentiation inducing domain of wild-type G-CSF.

24. (previously presented) The fusion protein of claim 23, wherein the mutant G-CSF receptor is deficient in amino acid residues 5 (Glu) through 195(Leu) as well as amino acid residues 725 through 756 of wild-type G-CSF.